Fall
2015
Vol. 97

DEATH
VALLEY
'49ERS INC.

The Death Valley News

The Death Valley '49ers 66th Annual Encampment

November 11th-15th, 2015

Furnace Creek Ranch & Resort

Death Valley, California

(Pre-encampment activities begin Saturday, November 7th)

From the President's Pen

The 66th Death Valley '49ers Encampment will be here before we know it. The program is set and we just have to follow through... I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the organization. JOB WELL DONE!

The meetings this year have been a little different. The meetings themselves have been the same as years past, but it is the Saturday evening programs that have been different. January's meeting was held at Furnace Creek Inn and Resort. Jim Graves provided Spaghetti Friday night and hot dogs Saturday for dinner. Our program was having fellowship around the campfire in the RV Park. March's meeting was a regular meeting, and Robert Logsdon had a slide show for the program. Robert Logsdon is one of our oldest members. He was at the California Centennial in 1949, which was the start of the Death Valley '49ers. Robert has consented to giving us another slide show at the September meeting. May's meeting was again a regular meeting with Chris Langley as the guest speaker. Chris was the author of the keepsake last year. At the July meeting we had pizza and salad for dinner and our members told about their memories at some of the November encampments. A great time was had by all.

In the past few years we have started new programs that have the organization moving in a positive direction. We need to keep the needle pointed in that positive direction.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their support in making my year as your President a positive experience. We are always looking for members who want to do more and we want to encourage you to volunteer as an Advisor, and then become a member of the Board of Directors to work on making the encampment something to be even more proud.

Submitted by Dennis Harders, 2015 President
The Death Valley '49ers

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Woody Adams, 1st Vice President

Wednesday night Coyote Howl! The Coyote howl has traditionally been on Thursday night. This year we decided to make it our opening night Show! Most of the great folks who have played for you in the past and even some new ones will be on stage one night earlier than you are accustomed to. Marie Murphy with her understated but engaging style of Emceeing will of course be there to keep things on track.

The talented and entertaining **Richard Elloyan** will return this year as MC! Guitar virtuoso and vocalist **Steve Wade** will join Richard during his performances. Steve has been playing guitar since his youth and it shows. He and Richard have played music together for years. Richard's newest CD, Forty Miles of Famous, is a joint effort between the these two good friends.

John Bardt is coming to the 2015 Encampment in a most entertaining way. John will be with us all week as **GEM BAKER**; an Ole sourdough Prospector who combines the humor of Mark Twain, the poetry of Walt Whitman and the ecological vision of John Muir. His One Man Show, **CALIFORNEE**, will be at the Borax museum on Monday and Tuesday at 11am, but GEM BAKER will be available and mixing in with the crowd throughout the week. You can't miss him, he will be colorfully attired and available to share his unique old western perspective and his love for Death Valley through his storytelling.

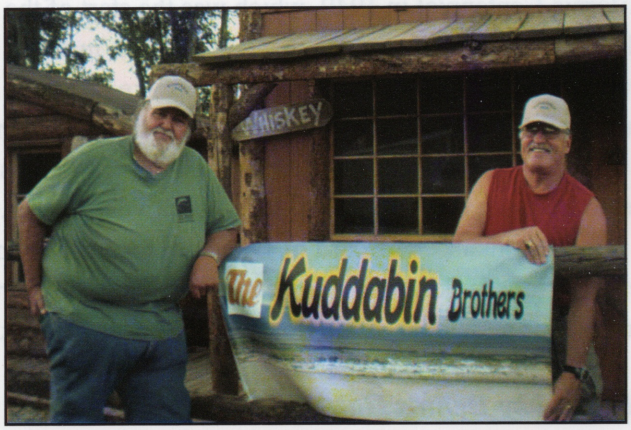
Steve Hale returns as John C. Fremont. Last year Steve packed the house with his performance as Snowshoe Thompson. This year he will bring us John C. Fremont; the great explorer of the American west. Steve has been working diligently since last year's Encampment researching the details of Fremont's life. He will appear on Wednesday and Thursday at the Visitor Center. Be sure to catch both shows because they present different aspects of Fremont's story!

The **Messick Family Singers** will appear Friday night through Sunday Morning. These folks are the real deal… they have a wonderful family tradition of singing together and performing western songs. If you missed it, go back to the spring newsletter and read the write up on this talented family from a ranching background. **The Devils Box String Band**, with their revisionist-western take on fiddle tunes from around the world, will liven things up on Friday night. Their music is rooted in the styles of bluegrass and folk. This is a bunch of fiddle players with some serious energy and an eye for fun. They are only available on Friday night so you won't want to miss them!

Music at the Visitor Center Patio. This year we are adding some live music to the mix at the Visitor Center patio. **PJ Robertson** will sing and play guitar on Wednesday at 12:30 as a prelude to John C Fremont. PJ is a long time '49er and frequent performer at the Coyote Howl. This year she is stepping up her game and will appear on four different occasions. One of our long time favorites, **Gemini**, will perform at the Visitor Center at 12:30 on Thursday. As is the custom at many of our Encampment activities, there will be musicians there to share the good vibes that only music can do. These folks will include the **Kuddabin Brothers**, **Gemini**, and **PJ Robertson**. These musicians are all fellow '49ers and deserve a big thanks for donating their time and talents; they put a great deal of effort into giving you a good show.

Cowboy Poetry returns by popular demand. Everyone loved last year's Cowboy Poetry. **Tony the Tumbleweed**, the 49er's Poet Lariat, will be emceeing three sessions of Cowboy Poetry during our Encampment. Reciting at these poetry events is open to all '49ers. Read your own poem or share one from your favorite cowboy poet…either way come on down and join in the fun !

A new Stage for Fiddler's Camp! Through the efforts of Bill Whitfield and Bob Stockman we now have a new and larger portable stage. *Please see page 6 for more information.*



The Kuddadin Brother entertain throughout the encampment!

Art Show Committee Report

Meet our new Art Show Chairman

Kim Wilson

Directors Kim and Rick Wilson live in San Diego, and despite having demanding careers they both volunteered to help the '49ers. Thank you Wilsons!

Kim has enthusiastically taken on the task of learning to run the Art Show! Her help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

One of Kim's first tasks this year was to choose this year's Raffle Quilt design. She also sewed the top portion (Nan Gering is in charge of quilting and finishing the quilt). Do any of you quilt? Would you like to volunteer? Contact us.

Rick sits on the '49er Board as our Treasurer and each year acts as the officiate at the 1849 Poker Tournament.

Invitational Western Art Show

Nov. 12th–15th, 2015.

Many of your favorite Artists registered early and are excited to join us this November:
Susan Altstatt, Sandra Lee Childs, Marilyn Manwaring, Peggie Foy, Russell Padgett, Karen Petrovich, Joseph Solay, Gale F. Trapp, and **Carl Seyboldt** and **Russ Walker** (both with 30 years of exhibiting experience).

Art Event Schedule:

Thursday: People's Composite
Artist in Charge is **Sandra Lee Childs.**

Thursday: Quick Draw
Artists are: **Marilyn Manwaring, Peggie Foy, Carl Seyboldt, Gale Trapp** and _____?

Friday: People's Composite
Artist in Charge is **Peggie Foy.**

Friday: Quick Draw
Artists are: **Karen Petrovich, Joseph Solay, Russ Walker** and two more_____? _____?

Saturday: Artist's Composite
Saturday morning the Artist's Composite will be started by Artist in charge **Gale Trapp**. All exhibiting Artists will paint on the front & sign on the back.
Gale will take it home with him, clean it up and bring it back 2016 to be auctioned* at the "Breakfast with the Artists" same time, same place.

*100% of the auction sale is deposited into our Endowment Fund that supports the Scholarships Fund. A $4,000 Scholarship for four years is available to a deserving local High School graduate.

Our Scholarship Fund pay-out is $16,000 annually, helping four (4) local students every year. No local student ever completed college before the Death Valley '49ers Scholarship Fund was established.
For more information about our Scholarship Fund please visit our website.

Thank you all,
Wanda Elmore

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Just a friendly reminder: Due to the rising costs of putting on the encampment, we have had to increase the cost of membership to $40.00 for a family & $25.00 for a single person.

Packets will be available for pickup at our membership booth starting on Wednesday, November 4th at 8:00 am. The booth will be open throughout the encampment from 8:00am to 5:00pm. For those of you who would like to see the program online, it is available in the "members only" section on our website. Please see the next page for an article about this new feature!

You must be an active member to view the program online. Please **Join** or **Renew** now on our website at www.deathvalley49ers.org/join-renew-now or mail your membership fees to: Death Valley '49ers, 11762 De Palma Ave. 1C-10, Corona, CA 92883-5146.

The **Membership Booth** opens Wednesday, November 4th, 2015. Thank you to all for your help and support. This year's encampment will once again be filled with lots of entertainment for everyone. Pre-encampment activities begin Saturday, Nov. 7th with The Bill Whitfield Fiddlers, so bring your kids, grandkids, and anyone else to enjoy four days full of fun: music, gold panning, pampered pets, Art Show, vendors, and lots more.

Membership Sales,
Joan Wells Dann.

Online Encampment Program

A New Feature on www.deathvalley49ers.org

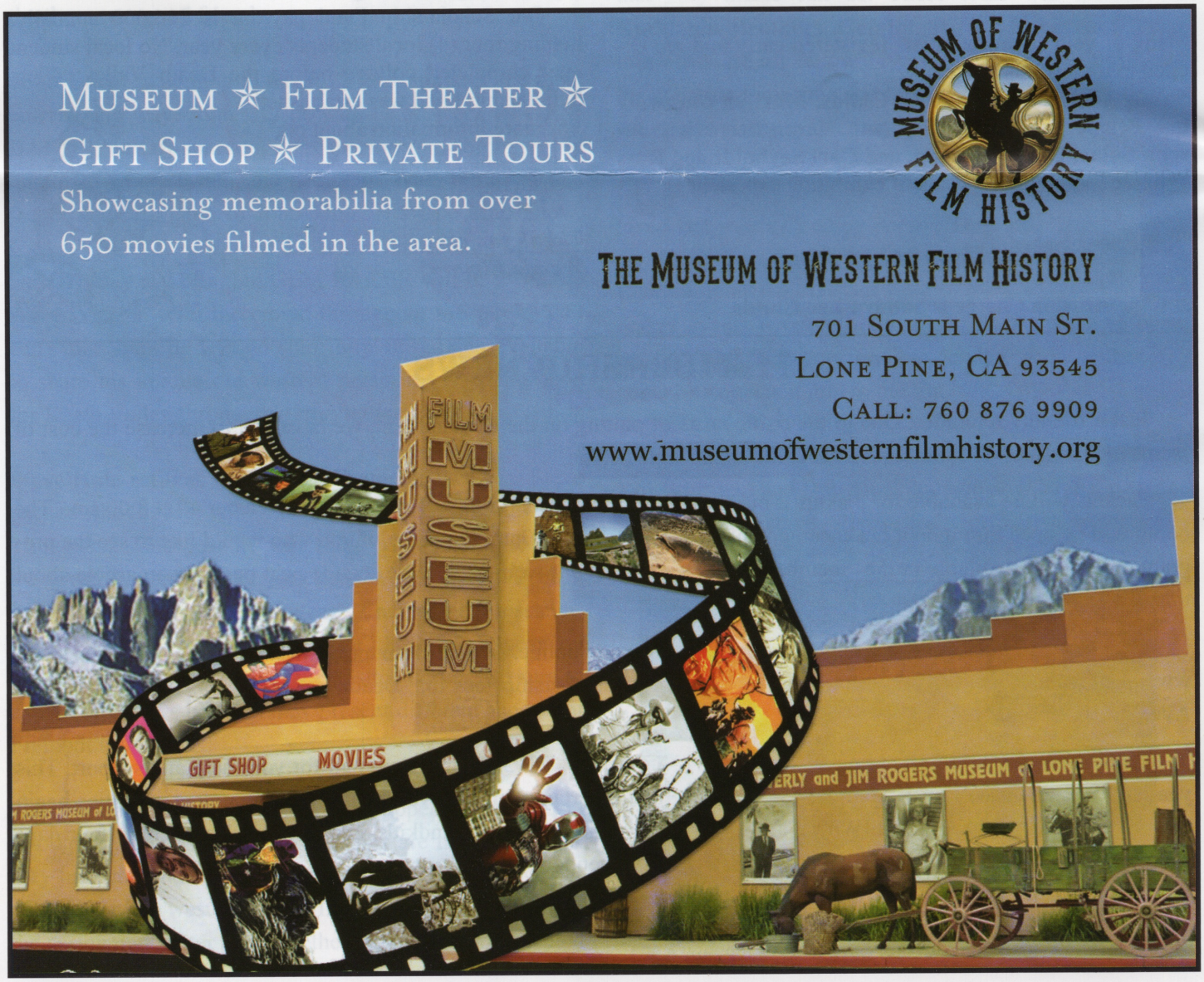
We will be posting this year's Encampment Program on the website as soon as all of this year's events are finalized.

To access it make sure that:

1. Your membership is current (You can even sign up online.)
2. You sign up for an account on the website. Just click on WEBSITE REGISTRATION on the top of the page and it will take you to a page that asks a few simple questions. Give us a few days to check our membership records and the next time you login you will see a special section just for members. It includes not only this year's program but even recordings and documents that go all the way back to the 1960s!

Since you will not be able to print the online version of the program, **you'll pick up your printed copy** from the Membership Booth next to Furnace Creek Ranch Registration once you get to this year's Encampment.

We've made these changes in order to keep costs down and to eliminate the need of handing out duplicate copies of the program. This is the first time trying this so please let us know how it works for you.



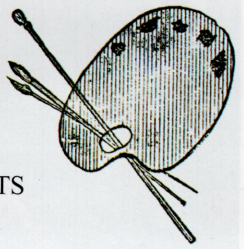
ANNUAL VENDOR SHOW NOV. 9TH-15TH

Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-4:00pm, Sunday Nov.9th: 9:00am-12:00pm behind the Borax Museum

CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS: Monday-Friday at 9:00am

MONDAY: Gail BISHOP, of "GB Dragon Fly Designs" teach us how to weave baskets & other crafts, on the Patio
TUESDAY: TIM HORNED with "Busting Glass" will demonstrate their Craft on the Patio.
WEDNESDAY: SHERRY HORNED will demonstrate something different in their Craft of "Busting Glass"
THURSDAY: MARY HALEY will show us how to "Tie-dye" on the Patio
FRIDAY: ANTONIO MENDOZA presenting "The Art of Hand-Weaving with Natural Dyes" at his Booth.

BOOTH 1	PUBLICATIONS– DV '49ERS	PUBLICATIONS
BOOTH 2	CHINA RANCH	
BOOTH 3	MOYA, SAMANTHA	BLIND DOG COFFEE
BOOTH 4	FOWLER, JERRY	J & B THINGS
BOOTH 5 & 6	PINO, BARBARA & BEN	BEN & BARB PINO
BOOTH 7	BISHOP, GAIL & BARRY	GBDRAGON FLY DESIGNS
BOOTH 8	VICTORINO, TERRIE & MIKE	ALL RELATIONS DESIGNS
BOOTH 9	BILLINGS, EVELYN & LOUIS	
BOOTH 10	HALEY, DENNIS & MARY	CIRCLE TIE DYE/ LANET PENDANTS
BOOTH 11	HARWOOD, DAVID	
BOOTH 12	VORE, TELLA & JOHN	HILLBILLY HANDY CRAFTIN
BOOTH 13	DeLONG, ANDY & SONIA	ANDY DELONG TRADER
BOOTH 14		
BOOTH 15	SANDERS, TONY	COWBOY & POETRY
BOOTH 16	GRAHAM, FRANCEE & FRANCIS	BEARLY WRAPPED
BOOTH 17-18-19	FOSTER, SHIRLEY & BEV	TRADERS POST
BOOTH 20-21-22	ALLEN, LINDA	TRADITIONAL TRADERS POST
BOOTH 23 &24	MENDOZA, ANTONIO	ANTONIO MENDOZA WEAVING
BOOTH 25	ALEXANER, CHARLES	WHIRLIGIGS & MISC.
BOOTH 26	RODRIGUES, MARTHA	MARTHA'S GIFT SHOP
BOOTH 27		
BOOTH 28	PERKINS, CARLA	GLASS RIBBONS
BOOTH 29 &-30	ESTES, PATRICIA & HEUSLER, JOHN	PAIKART WORLD
BOOTH 31 &-32	COUVEAU, EMMA ROSE & AL	AWESOME ENTERPRISES
BOOTH 33 & 34	HARNED, TIM & SHERRY	BUSTIN GLASS & MINERALS
BOOTH 35	LINDSEY, MONICA	LINDSEY ORNAMENTAL IRON & MONICA'S JUNK IRON
BOOTH 36	SALTER, DAVID & STEPHANIE	DIGITAL IMAGES



New Portable stage for Fiddlers Campground

By Bill Whitfield

During the Month of April, Bob Stockman came out to my place and we worked for quite a long time on a new stage for the Fiddler's Campground area. It is composed of a refurbished trailer with a plywood floor underpinned by a steel frame. It has a new tow hitch, all new lumber, new tires (for towing), and a handicapped ramp built to code. The great thing about this new stage is that all the railings, ramps and stairs are either completely removable or able to flip up to ride on the trailer. It is now in the process of being painted and will be ready for the 2015 Encampment!

A portable access ramp has been built too!

A sturdy steel frame being welded.

Bob and I put in 4 full weeks, 10 hrs per day including week-ends, laboring over this stage. That is 20 man hours per day, at $80 per hour (shop wages), for 28 days. That calculates out to: $44,800 in labor alone, not to mention the cost of all new materials – all volunteer you understand. We just want people to know that a lot of experience and elbow grease went into the design and building of this stage. It should last for many years with proper care. We hope it meets with your approval.

Editor's Note: This stage is designed to accommodate a lot more folks than our smaller one on the farm wagon. We will now return to a schedule much like we had before the old Fiddler's stage was removed. **Evening shows will once again be held all week long at Fiddler Campground.** Morning shows will remain at the golf course driving range. Check the program for details. Be sure to thank Bill and Bob for their weeks of hard work. To learn more about this year's entertainers go to deathvalley49ers.org, click on Encampment and scroll down to entertainment. Enjoy!

Fiddle & Picking Contest Camping Registration

Location Change: The Fiddle and Picking Contests are back in the Fiddler's Campground. As usual, bring chairs and blankets for the evening chill.

Camping Reservations Required: The Fiddler's Campground has been remodeled into a groomed campground with 29, 60-foot-long spaces @ $15.00 per night.

For camping reservations call the reservation office at (760)786-2345 or email Edna Wade at ewade@xanterra.com immediately. Please specify that you will be participating in the Fiddle Contest, ***booking #646451.***

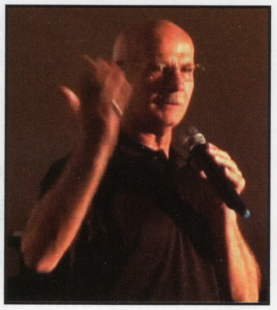
There are several campgrounds convenient to the new Fiddle Stage area including: **Sunset Campground** (across highway); **Furnace Creek Campground** (behind Visitor's Center); and the **Fiddler's Campground** (old fiddler's stage area - $15/night, dry camping). **Golden Age** passes will get you discounted camping fees at Sunset Campground.

Steven & Cecelia Orcutt

A ZILLION THANKS *(That's much more than a million or trillion)* FOR 25 YEARS!

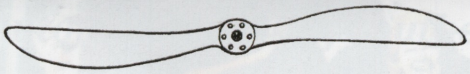
The Board of Directors and Members of the Death Valley '49ers wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for your many years of service and contributions. The hard work and dedication you displayed throughout your tenure has been instrumental in the success of our organization. You can take pride in the knowledge that your contributions as an Auctioneer, Entertainer, and Lifetime Members will have significant impact on the Death Valley '49ers for many years to come. Until "Happy Trails" bring you back, we will hold you near and dear in our hearts. *Thanks for the Memories* Cecelia and Steven! We Love you!

Welcome New Auctioneer Ski Censke!



New Auctioneer from Pahrump—Ski will delight us with his comedy and humor. He says, "I believe when one is blessed with a special talent, it should be shared with others". He is a popular Volunteer Auctioneer for many Non-profit organizations and businesses similar to the Death Valley '49ers. Ski and his associate Robin can be found at the "Quick Draw" events Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th, and at the "Breakfast with the Artists" and "Awards and Auction" events Saturday morning, November 14th. Everyone will want to attend these events, (which raise funds for the Scholarships). Come for breakfast to meet us and help us welcome Ski and Robin!

Airmail is coming to Death Valley!!



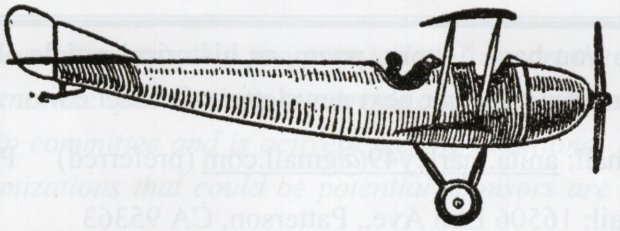
A new event will be taking place in Death Valley this year, one which commemorates an overlooked aspect of Death Valley history.

The Airmail service had been in operation since 1918 under the control of the US Government and the Postal Service. In May, 1953, the airport at Furnace Creek had just finished construction and opened for business. Six months later, on November 15, the first airmail service landed at Furnace Creek Airport, known as L06 by the aviation community. The official route, which included Death Valley, was labeled AM-105, and contained other stops on as far south as Phoenix, and as far north as Reno. It was an age of adventure and "flying by the seat of your pants," and now, pilots from California and neighboring states can participate in a historic, re-creation of this airmail route, and take home a bit of nostalgia.

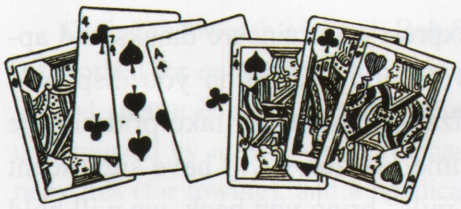
On November 8, Death Valley '49ers will have their first Historic **Airmail Fly-In**. The goal is to help the participants recreate part of the journey which those courageous pilots of yore flew on a regular basis. The participants will fly to one of the airports on the original route: Reno, Carson City, Hawthorne, Tonopah, Las Vegas, Boulder City, Kingman, Prescott or Phoenix; pick up a piece of airmail and fly it into Death Valley for cancellation as well as picking up their participation ribbon, member packets and logging the Western Hemisphere's lowest airport for posterity (and the possible future airline job?).

Pilots who want to take part must submit the required information (application and waiver/release of liability) to deathvalleyflyin@gmail.com. Spots for this event are limited, and will be issued on a first-come/first-served basis. Upon verification of required materials, and proof of membership in the Death Valley '49ers, the pilot will be sent a confirmation email with all pertinent information.

As with all special events during Encampment, pilots and passengers who wish to have a piece of airmail stamped and cancelled will be required to be members of the Death Valley '49ers.



Annual Death Valley 1849 Poker Tournament



It is almost time again for all UPSTANDING ladies and gents to partake in the 4th Annual, Inaugural 1849 Death Valley Poker Tournament! Players of all skill levels compete for the honor of Best 5-card Draw Poker Player in Death Valley. Prizes include ribbons and monetary prizes for top players, as well as Best Male and Female players, Best 1849 costume and the prestigious prize of "First Player Out."

All players and folks who assist during the competition receive participation ribbons!

Check–in: Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 12:00pm in the Marquez Room at the Furnace Creek Inn
Play: Begins Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 1:00pm
Buy-in: $30.00 *(which supports the Death Valley '49ers in all their endeavors)*
Membership in the Death Valley '49ers is also required, but is for such a good cause, why wouldn't you want to support it?

Must be at least 21 years old to play, but family and friends are welcome to watch.
Check http://www.deathvalley49ers.org/poker-tournament/ for more information, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Horseshoe Competition

Sign-up and Qualification for the Horseshoe Tournament will take place at the Furnace Creek Date Grove Monday, November 9th, 2015 between 9:00am-11:00am (and 2:00pm-4:00pm if slots are not filled). If you have pitched here before you will not need pitch again to qualify.

Open to men and women. $10.00 entry fee. New format: All play will finish Thursday Afternoon. Awards and Ribbons will be given after each round.

We've had a great time the last few years and would like to see even more people involved! Bud Flenniken and Chairman Nancy Graves will conduct the event. If you have any questions about the event or if you would like to volunteer to help please contact Bud Flenniken at budflen@sbcglobal.net.

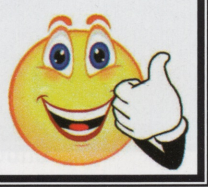
Death Valley '49ers Decal

Leonard & Carol Cruz with their new Death Valley '49ers vinyl logo for the spare tire cover on their Jeep. Carol wanted the logo for Leonard's birthday so in the process we had ten logos made and have already sold five, the rest will be for sale at the membership booth at the November Encampment. We can order more decal if there is a demand for them.

Do you have a story, poem, or historical article about Death Valley or the '49ers? If you do we'd love to consider it for our next newsletter. Contact editor Anita Marley:

Email: anita.marley49@gmail.com (preferred) Phone: (209)777-6824

Mail: 16506 Elm Ave., Patterson, CA 95363



Furnace Creek Resort
Continues Its Support as Host Sponsor

FURNACE CREEK RESORT
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
Legendary Hospitality by Xanterra

Furnace Creek Resort, of course, has acted as the Encampment's Host Sponsor since the very beginning, providing their beautiful grounds as the location for this historic event. The resort includes the Inn at Furnace Creek (AAA 4 Diamond rated) and the Furnace Creek Ranch spread over 180 acres of swaying palm and tamarisk trees. With its two spring-fed swimming pools, 18 hole golf course, tennis courts and other entertainment options, the resort caters to couples, families and gatherings for weddings, conferences, reunions and golf tournaments. Dining options include four distinct restaurants from a casual western style saloon to the elegant Dining room at the Inn. Activities vary by season but include stargazing under one of the darkest skies on the planet, horseback and carriage rides, biking and hiking, and more! At 214 feet below sea level, the golf course is the lowest golf course in the world; we confidently guarantee you will play your lowest round ever!

The Inn at Furnace Creek was built by the Pacific Borax Company and welcomed its first guests on February 1st, 1927. The Inn is open from mid-October to mid-May and July and August. The Furnace Creek Ranch opened in 1930 and welcomes travelers years round. Adjacent to Death Valley National Park's Welcome Center, the resort offers the perfect vantage point to explore the beauty of a region that is virtually untouched and extraordinarily distinct. At 3.3 million acres, this is the largest National Park in the continental U.S. Our resort certainly is an "oasis in the desert". For more information, call (760)786-2345 of visit FurnaceCreekResort.com

Automobile Club of Southern California to Sponsor Fiddler's Stage

The Death Valley '49ers welcome the Automobile Club of Southern California as official Fiddler's Stage Sponsor at the upcoming Encampment. A long-time supporter, the Auto Club has donated $5,000 to help underwrite the Encampment.

The Automobile Club of Southern California was established in 1900 by 10 "horseless carriage" enthusiasts. As the popularity of the automobile grew, the Auto Club quickly expanded its scope to provide travel services that helped members decide where to go once they got into their cars.

The Auto Club has been involved with promoting Death Valley tourism since the early 20th century, mapping the area for members and using its sign posting crew to make the valley safe for tourists to explore. According to an Associated Press article from August 1921, "All water holes and wells have been marked so they can be found without trouble either at night or day…more than a year was consumed in charting the valley and in making and erecting the signs."

The Death Valley '49ers voted in March to initiate a commercial sponsorship program to help support the ongoing costs of putting on the Encampment. Most similar events use sponsorships to provide a continuing financial base. Cheryl Hale is acting as chair of the sponsorship committee and is actively seeking additional Encampment sponsors. Death Valley '49ers with ties to organizations that could be potential sponsors are encouraged to contact Cheryl at chale@deathvalley49ers.org.

Become an Individual Sponsor
of the Death Valley '49ers Encampment

Our Host Sponsor, Furnace Creek Inn, and our Fiddler's Stage Sponsor, the Automobile Association of Southern California, are providing significant support to the Death Valley '49ers 2015 Encampment. More help is needed, however, to ensure the continuation of this wonderful and historic celebration of the Death Valley region and the pioneers who settled the west.

Contribute and be recognized as an important supporter of the Death Valley '49ers Encampment. Or contribute as a memorial to someone special who would have wanted the Encampment to live on. Your contribution will be recognized in signage adjacent to our corporate sponsor acknowledgment at the Encampment registration area, in the '49ers newsletter, and in the Encampment Program (2015 or 2016, depending on whether your contribution is received prior to the 2015 Program deadline).

When you complete the form below and submit it with your contribution check, you will be helping ensure this 66-year western tradition continues. Your gift is tax deductible. Checks can be made out to "Death Valley '49ers, Inc."

Contributor: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed:

$100 - Prospector Level
$200 - Pioneer Level
$500 - Trailblazer Level
$1000 - Boss of the Plains Level

Acknowledgment Desired:

Name _____
In Memory of _____
Anonymous

Mail form and your contribution check to:

Rick Wilson, Treasurer
13532 Samantha Avenue
San Diego, CA 92129

Membership Application

Each paid membership will include:

- 2 Death Valley '49ers Membership Buttons (which allow access to all Encampment activities)
- 1 Death Valley '49ers Window Decal
- 1 Annual KEEPSAKE publication
- 1 Subscription to the semi-annual news magazine, "Death Valley News"
- 1 Issue of the next Death Valley '49ers Encampment Program

Membership packets will be no longer be mailed out to you. Pick up your packet at the Membership Booth in Furnace Creek Ranch near the archway and/or visit the "Members Only" section of our website to view an online version.

Membership Application (please fill out this form, print it out and mail along with your check or money order to the address below)

Name:		
Address:		
City:		
State:		
Zip:		
Email:		
Phone:		

Single: $25.00 per year	
Regular: $35.00 per year	
Corporate: $300.00 per year	
Life: $500.00 one time	
Educational Programs $	
Donations are welcome $	
Membership amount $	
Total Amount Enclosed $	

66TH ANNUAL DEATH VALLEY '49ERS ENCAMPMENT

November 11th—15th, 2015

Please make your check or money order payable to:

Death Valley '49ers, Inc.

11762 De Palma Rd. #1C-10

Corona, CA 92883-5146

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN OUTLAW TO MAKE A PERFECT GETAWAY.

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